

**Gallatin County Planning Board
Infrastructure Committee
Water and Wastewater Subcommittee
Record of Meeting: March 9, 2009**

Members present: C.B. Dormire (Subcommittee Chair), Gail Richardson, Don Seifert, Kerry White; Sean O'Callaghan, County Planning Department.

1. **Call to Order:** 4:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of February 23, 2009 Minutes:** No comments offered.
3. **Recap and Further Discussion Regarding Conference call with Dave Aune about Great West 2007 Regional Wastewater Study:**

CB asked whether based on what we heard from Dave Aune we should consider doing something different?

Kerry brought up the fact that the Great West study didn't include a separate Four Corners option. Kerry thinks that this issue will be studied in the subsequent study. CB clarified that whoever does the subsequent study will have to look into some things to make sure our assumptions are correct and that this area is adequately covered.

4. **Discussion Regarding Greenbaum Memo (12/22/2008)**

CB gave a brief history of the report as it resulted from a meeting with CB, Kerry, and James Greenbaum. CB asked if after reading this, anyone was clear on whether the County could finance, construct, own, and operate wastewater treatment systems.

CB thinks that gaining a clear understanding of the broad outlines of the law will be a long and difficult effort and that it is likely the next item on the Committee's plate. CB doubts that we will have further legal help to do so until we have specific questions. CB has asked the above question in a number of venues and has not received a clear answer. Gail asked whether the Commission wants the group to do that, she doesn't see that as being the group's responsibility. CB mentioned the template was contemplated early on in the Committee's existence and that understanding the legal framework is necessary for the Committee to fulfill the tasks identified on the template. Kerry also thinks that gaining an understanding of the legal framework is necessary and important. Don thinks that gaining this understanding will help the Committee ask the correct questions.

5. **Member Reports:**

Kerry provided the Committee's proposal to the Commissioners. Kerry met with Commissioner Skinner, but no feedback was received from Commissioner Murdock or Commissioner White. Commissioner Skinner wanted the selected engineer to identify some potential funding sources for identified wastewater treatment facilities (pg 3). Commissioner Skinner wanted minimal funds spent on the concept of discharging to the Missouri River (pg 4, F). With these comments, Kerry reported that Commissioner Skinner told the group to move full speed ahead.

6. **Next meeting Date and Agenda:** March 23, 2009 at 4:00 with the focus of the meeting being a *Discussion of Montana Law Relevant to Subcommittee's Work*.

7. **Other Business:**

The group discussed the situation in Logan and whether anything we are doing would be helpful to them.

The group discussed whether it would be helpful to share the memo that went to the Commission with the Board of Health. Kerry is concerned about the changes that could be recommended and would rather prepare a draft RFP that they could comment on. Kerry suggested getting comments from LWQD on a draft RFP too. Don and Gail expressed their thoughts. CB pointed out that sharing a draft RFP with the Board of Health and LWQD was different than asking them for comments. It was decided to stick with Kerry's idea.

Sean handed out the report from Environmental Health. CB asked Sean to follow up with Alan English to determine whether or not LWQD has seen the report. If Alan has not seen the report, Sean will get it to him. Kerry voiced some concerns about what he was reading in the handouts that there was a lack of regulatory oversight and enforcement over existing central/public wastewater systems, yet these are the types of systems that everyone is saying are better for public health and safety.

Kerry asked Sean to contact Lewis & Clark County about their 319 grant and to find out how much that grant was for, and get some general information about what has taken place.

CB handed out an article from helenair.com about some problems that have been pointed out with the groundwater report done for the Helena Valley.

CB brought up Sean's request to change the meeting time due to his scheduling conflicts March – May. CB stated that the type of things the group was going to be working on over the next few months probably didn't need as much administrative support and that the Committee could make do without Sean at those meetings, and therefore are not going to change the meeting dates/time.

8. **Adjourn:** 5:35